



Midewin Volunteer Days and Events April-June 2013

FREE Public Tours and Presentations More info here.	Volunteer Days for Restoration Volunteer Days for Educators	Volunteer Training Workshops	Special Events	 Children are always welcome, but these activities are more appropriate
--	--	------------------------------	-----------------------	--

Date	Time	Meeting Location	Activity
18 April Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day
18 April Thursday	10:00am – Noon	Contact for details	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students with planting and pond study!
20 April Saturday	10:00am – 1:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Ghosts of the Ammunitions Plant Tour: In 1940, the U.S. Government acquired over 36,000 acres of land to build and ammunition plant. Why here? How was it built and how did it operate?
24 April Wednesday	Noon – 6:00pm	Kankakee Community College	Kankakee Community College Green Expo – Come visit the Midewin booth!
25 April Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Trail Maintenance: Midewin's trail stewards need some helping hands along our community trails. Join the stewards on the last Thursday of every month.
27 April Saturday	10:00am – Noon	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Cemetery Tour: Join Midewin tour guides in an exploration of two historic cemeteries. Learn the history of Maple Hill and Klingler Cemeteries, while hearing about the lives of some of the farmers, merchants, soldiers, pioneers, their wives and children buried there.
29 April Monday	12:15pm – 2:15pm	Contact for details	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students with planting and pond study!
30 April Tuesday	12:15pm – 2:15pm	Contact for details	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students with planting and pond study!
1 May Wednesday	6:30pm – 9:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Bird Monitoring Training: If you are a bird lover, we are looking for your help! Monitor our feathered friends 3-5 times during the summer.
2 May Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day
3 May Friday	10:00am - Noon	Contact for details	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students with planting and pond study!
4 May Saturday 	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Earth Day! Celebrate our woodland wildflowers by pulling invasive garlic mustard. Hotdog/veggie dog lunch provided by the Midewin Alliance.
4 May Saturday	9:00am – 3:00pm	Hammond, In	Nature and the Environment Event – Come visit the Midewin booth!
9 May Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day CANCELED due to Spring into the Prairie (private event).
9 May Thursday	10:00am – 2:00pm	Contact for details	Spring into the Prairie: Private environmental education event. Please contact us if you are interested in assisting with this special event.
11 May Saturday	10:00am – 12:30pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Butterfly Monitoring Training: Mandatory for new monitors. Must shadow an experienced monitor for first season. Please RSVP!
11 May Saturday	1:00pm – 3:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Geology Tour: Join us for a guided trip to view the rocks, hills and plains in the Midewin area that bear evidence for prehistoric environments.
13 May Monday	9:30am – 11:30am	Contact for details	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students with planting and pond study!
14 May Tuesday	8:15am – 3:00pm	Contact for details	Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern monitoring
16 May Thursday	8:15am – 3:00pm	Contact for details	Chicago Botanic Garden Plants of Concern monitoring
16 May Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day
18 May Saturday	8:00am – 10:00am	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Bird tour: From prairie, to wetland, to woodland, these habitats at Midewin offer opportunities to see varying species of birds. We will look for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, along with Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers and numerous migrating birds.
18 May Saturday	11:00am – 4:00pm	Homer Glen	Homer Glen Earth Day Arbor Day – Come visit the Midewin booth!
20 May Monday	Noon – 1:45pm	Contact for details	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students with planting and pond study!

21 May Tuesday	Noon – 1:45pm	Contact for details	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students with planting and pond study!
22 May Wednesday	Noon – 1:45pm	Contact for details	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students with planting and pond study!
23 May Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day
23 May Thursday	Noon – 1:45pm	Contact for details	Mighty Acorns Youth Program: Help elementary school students with planting and pond study!
24 May Friday	9:00 am – 2:00pm	Contact for details	Mighty Acorns Youth Program & Hike: Help elementary school students with planting and pond study!
25 May Saturday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day: Planting native plants in the seed production beds and collecting early ripening seeds.
25 May Saturday	10:00am - Noon	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Prairie Veterans Tour: The historic cemeteries of Midewin are the final resting places for several veterans of our country's armed services. This special Memorial Day Weekend tour will explore the lives of these people and the units they served with from the War Between the States to the Second World War.
30 May Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Trail Maintenance: Midewin's trail stewards need some helping hands along our community trails. Join the stewards on the last Thursday of every month.
1 June Saturday	8:00am – 10:00am	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Bird tour: From prairie, to wetland, to woodland, these habitats at Midewin offer opportunities to see varying species of birds. We will look for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, along with Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers and numerous migrating birds.
1 June Saturday	11:00am – 1:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	German Heritage Tour: The small rural cemeteries of Midewin attest to the many German speaking immigrants who came to this country in the 1800's to start a new life. Learn about the difficulties these early settlers overcame in their new land and their patriotic zeal during the American Civil War.
1 June Saturday	5:00pm – 7:00pm	Arsenal & Chicago Road	Horse Tour South Side: Join equestrian volunteers for an interpretive ride through portions of Midewin not yet open to the public. Learn about the history and how the land is being managed today. PLEASE NOTE: horse and rider will have to cross bridges, and share the trail system with cattle. Participants must bring their own horses.
6 June Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	The Wetlands Initiative Corporate Donor Volunteer Day – All are invited!
8 June Saturday	8:00am – 10:00am	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Bird tour: From prairie, to wetland, to woodland, these habitats at Midewin offer opportunities to see varying species of birds. We will look for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, along with Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers and numerous migrating birds.
8 June Saturday	10:00am - Noon	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Midewin on Foot: Learn about Midewin's past, present and future. Visit restored prairie and wetlands, observe Grassland birds, hike Prairie Creek Woods Trail and enter an abandoned arsenal bunker on this 2- 2-1/2 hour guided tour. Come prepared to hike 3 to 4 miles at a slow to average pace - with several interpretive stopping points along the way.
8 June Saturday	6:00pm – 8:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Twilight Bike: Tour open and closed areas of Midewin. Expect to see an abundance of wildlife which may include deer, turkey, grassland birds and maybe a coyote or two. Since at least part of the route will be on gravel surfaces, "fat" tires are recommended.
13 June Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day
15 June Saturday	8:00am – 10:00am	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Bird tour: From prairie, to wetland, to woodland, these habitats at Midewin offer opportunities to see varying species of birds. We will look for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, along with Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers and numerous migrating birds.
15 June Saturday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day: Planting native plants in the seed production beds and collecting early ripening seeds.
15 June Saturday	10:00am - Noon	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Midewin Behind the Scenes: Join us for a short half-hour walk around the Welcome Center at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Be introduced to the plants of Midewin; learn how we produce seed to restore the prairie and discover different wildlife habitats. For the second (optional) part of the tour, car caravan out to the River Road Seedbeds.
19 June Wednesday	9:30am – 12:30pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Buzzing About the Prairie (Pollinator Celebration). See beyond the stinger! Bring your family to learn about all the ways bees and their buddies provide us with food.
20 June Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day
22 June Saturday	8:00am – 10:00am	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Bird tour: From prairie, to wetland, to woodland, these habitats at Midewin offer opportunities to see varying species of birds. We will look for Grasshopper and Henslow's Sparrows, Dickcissels, Bobolinks, along with Red-tailed Hawks, Northern Harriers and numerous migrating birds.
27 June Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Trail Maintenance: Midewin's trail stewards need some helping hands along our community trails. Join the stewards on the last Thursday of every month.
29 June Saturday	10:00am – 1:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Ghosts of the Ammunitions Plant Tour : In 1940, the U.S. Government acquired over 36,000 acres of land to build and ammunition plant. Why here? How was it built and how did it operate?

To RSVP for Tours: Advance registration is required to guarantee your seat by calling our main number 815/423-6370 or email Midwin_RSVP@fs.fed.us. Doors will open at 6:30pm and lectures begin at 7pm.

To RSVP for Volunteer Days: Please contact Gemma Guenther, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, by phone at 815-423-2148, email gguenther@fs.fed.us or use the Volgistics system.

**** General Restoration Volunteer Days-** The activities for these days will be based on need and weather conditions. Activities may include seed cleaning, brush cutting, herbicide treatment, invasive plant pulling, seed broadcasting, and greenhouse planting. Please be prepared for outdoor or indoor work, as we may do more than one activity on a Volunteer Day.

Volunteer Days and Events do fill up. Knowing how many volunteers or visitors will attend, allows our staff to better organize the event and we can inform you of Changes or Cancellations. For Volunteer Days: Midwin will provide tools, safety gear, and water. Please bring your own lunch. Dress in layers with sturdy field boots.

Volunteer Activities

Conservation Educator – An important part of Midwin's mission is to provide opportunities for environmental learning. Students of all ages, from early elementary to college, come to Midwin to participate in environmental education activities and conservation service projects. For many of these students, a trip to Midwin may be their first outdoor learning experience. Volunteer educators assist by leading small group discovery activities and supervising stewardship activities such as planting, seed harvest, and invasive plant removal.

Prairie Restoration Assistant – Restoration volunteers work in the native seed beds planting, weeding, mulching and harvesting seed. Cleaning seed, planting plug trays, clearing encroaching shrubs from prairie and herbiciding are other tasks that you can find restoration volunteers performing. Restoration Volunteer Days are scheduled on every Thursday and occasional Saturdays year round. Check the website for a calendar of events.

Ecological Monitors – Monitoring is an important part of the restoration process. Land managers need to know the health of plant and animal populations in an area before, during, and after a restoration project. Volunteer monitors, working independently or with Midwin staff, collect and record data on specific plant or animal populations using scientifically based methods. This data is used to plan and evaluate each restoration area. Existing Midwin monitoring programs include birds, frogs, butterflies, streams, rare plants and floristic quality in restored areas.

Interpreters – Volunteer Interpreters work with staff to deliver programs via escorted tours; bike and horse rides; hikes; and special programs. These programs are designed to promote awareness; knowledge and understanding of the natural and cultural history of Midwin; to provide insight into the native habitat restoration process; and to promote the mission of the US Forest Service.

Welcome Center Host duties include meeting and greeting visitors, answering questions and distributing information about Midwin. Responsibilities also include handling gift shop sales. This position is great for outgoing volunteers that don't mind being indoors for a 4 or 8 hour shift.

Trail Maintenance/Stewards –Midwin's trail systems are being extended and improved every year. Recreation sites such as trailheads, picnic sites, accessible viewing platforms, and interpretive waysides are being developed. Trail maintenance volunteers, working in teams or with Midwin staff will perform routine maintenance on these trails and facilities. Maintenance activities may include mowing; brush removal and herbiciding; repairing bridges and other structures; installing signs, benches, and tables; and other tasks all intended to contribute to a quality recreation experience and ensure public health and safety. Trail stewards are assigned designated sections to monitor for safety and manage the trail surface and 10 foot areas to each side.

PLEASE CONTACT THE VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR
FOR MORE INFORMATION

Allison Cisneros
Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie
30239 S State Route 53
Wilmington, IL



The Nature Conservancy
Office at U.S. Forest Service, Midwin
Volunteer Coordinator

Office: 815.423.2149
Cell: 815.474.3808
E-mail: amcisneros@fs.fed.us

